Review of Central Schemes

*592. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national review was undertaken on the performance/ implementation of Central Schemes/Programmes;

(b) if so, the detals thereof including findings thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the development/welfare schemes were unable to reach the target beneficiaries due to embezzlement in the middle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The implementing Ministries regularly undertake Review of implementation of their Programmes. Planning Commission too has introduced a system of Quarterly Progress Review (QPR) Meetings of Central Plan Schemes. In addition, Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO), Planning Commission undertakes Evaluation of some selected Central Plan Schemes.

(b) Subejct Divisions of the Planning Commission have undertaken a number of QPR meetings covering various Sectors. In addition, PEO has conducted 175 Evaluation Studies since its inception. Findings and suggestions of recently evaluated schemes are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The implementing Central Ministries/Deptts.as well as the State Governments also get evaluation studies conducted by Research Institutes & NGOs.

(c) However, the Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in the delivery system. The findings of evaluation studies conducted by PEO tend to suggest that the intended benefits of some developmental/welfare schemes are not reaching the targeted pupulation to the desired extent.

(d) The findings and suggestions are communicated to the concerned ministries/subject divisions of the Planning Commission for

mid-course corrections and restructuring of schemes/programmes. From information gathered, some of the Ministries have taken action on PEO reports, which is given in Statement-II.

Statement I

Findings and Suggstions of recently evaluated schemes

(i) Khadi and Village Industries Programme

The findings of the study shows that inadequate linkage between production and sales strategies has resulted in accumulation of stocks, low return on investment, non-performing asset build-up, low production and shrinking employment opportunities. The budgetary support has come down considerably with the introduction of MMS (Margin Money Scheme). The study reveals that another area of concern is the high raw material to output ratio. Due to part-time employment in khadi sector, the income of workers is low compared to village industries workers. Many poor households actually crossed the poverty line with the help of additional income from the KVIC programme.

(ii) Scoial Safety Net Programmes (SSNP)

The main findings of the study reveal that the programme suffers largely due to the lack of proper infrastructure facilities. The other factors such as post of lady doctor, the absenteeism among the doctors from their work places, behaviour of para-medical & auxiliary para-medical staff has worsened the situation. The beneficiaries are dissatisfied with the functioning of PHCs. The main reasons for the low income group households to stay away from the public health care delivery system are the non-availability of medicine, indirect cost on transport and high opportunity cost in terms of foregone income (due to loss of wage income say).

(iii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

The impact of the scheme as felt by the local people indicate that about 65% of the created assets have been rated as good and overwhelming majority of them have opined that the created assets are as per the felt needs and has improved their quality of life. The study reveals some major flaws in the implementation such as preference for roads & bridges and community works, meager allocation in spite of large

unspent balance, weak monitoring and supervision and lack of maintenance. The study suggests that there is a need for revitalizing the scheme in terms of financial management, inter-departmental coordination for implementation and involvement of PRIs for identifying the proper works, monitoring and maintenance of the created assets.

(iv) Evaluation Study of the National Project on Bio-gas Development

The study reveals the percentage of plants in working condition is very low and sanitary linked plants have a lower acceptability due to socio-psychological inhibitions in respect of routine operation of these plants. Most State level biogas cells are overstaffed, while in districts, staff deficiency was felt. The household demand for family type biogas plants is influenced by factors like availability of alternate convenient fuels (LPG), distance of a village from the nearest town and inconvenience in handling and maintaining biogas plants. As for the community biogas plants, the MNES has almost discontinued the promotion of community biogas plants in the past five years.

(v) Statutory Development Boards (SDBs) in Maharashtra

The findings of the Study clearly indicate that not only did the Boards discharge their assigned functions and responsibilities reasonably well, but they also have brought about important changes in the planning process of Maharashtra for balanced regional development. However, the role played by the Governor's Office as an arbiter and in directing the activities of the Boards towards constructive purposes has been a very critical input towards this achievement. Also, subjecting the activites of the Boards to normal administrative procedures has helped the Boards in discharging their responsibilities efficiently and objectively. Therefore, the purpose of constituting the Boards for moderating and defusing socio-political tensions arising out of unacceptably large gaps in the level of development across regions has, by and large, been fulfilled. PEO has suggested for continuance of the Boards beyond 2004 with their redefined role.

(vi) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP)

The findings of the study tend to suggest that except for a few isolated cases, the objectives of IDDP have not been realized. The areas of weakness in the scheme relate to several aspects of planning and

implementation. The Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCSs) is the linchpin of IDDP and its viability, sustainability and effectiveness are crucial to the success of the scheme. For their viability and effectiveness, the activities of DCSs should not remain confined to just procurement of milk, but be oriented to raise local milk production and marketable surplus. The DCSs should be geared to provide a package of services, which include Fodder Delivery, Veterinary Services, Awareness Generation and Capacity Building.

Statement - II

Action Taken in PEO Reports

Action taken note on findings and suggestions of recently conducted evaluation studies

PEO has been undertaking studies only at the requests of various Ministries/Departments and Divisions of Planning Commission. The implementation of the findings and suggestion made in the evaluation reports brought out by PEO rests with the concerned Ministries/ Departments. It has been gathered that the findings and suggestions of PEO evaluation reports have been incorporated in varying degrees by the implementing Ministries/Departments.

-- Based on the evaluation report of PEO on Mahila Samriddhi Yojana, the scheme was abolished.

-- The Employment Assurance Scheme was thoroughly restructured during 2001-02 and the detailed guidelines for the restructured scheme (Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana - SGRY) were issued in April, 2002 which incorporated many of the recommendations of the report by PEO released in April, 2000.

-- The evaluation study, of Non-Formal Education Programme was taken up by PEO in the year 1997 and based on the recommendations of the PEO report the scheme was completely revamped and amalgamated in the new scheme entitled Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS&AIE).

-- The evaluation of National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) was taken up by PEO in 2001 and based on the observations and recommendations of the evaluation report; the Ministry of

Non-Conventional Resources formulated detailed guidelines for implementation of the programme during the year 2002-03 onwards.

-- The performance evaluation of Statutory Development Boards in Maharashtra was taken up by PEO and the report was released in April, 2003. The findings and observations of PEO report were acknowledged by office of the Governor, Maharashtra and the three development boards of Marathawara, rest of Maharashtra and Vidharbha.

-- The evaluation reports on Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Functioning of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) assisted under Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme have been found extremely useful and acted upon by the implementing agencies.

-- The findings and recommendations of the recently evaluated scheme on Integrated Dairy Development Project are being acted upon by the Ministry and the Subject Division of the Planning Commission.

Issuance of Passport

593. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of passport issued by different passport offices in the country during the last three years, year-wise/passport office-wise;

(b) the details of the applications pending in these offices for issuance of passport during the last six months, state-wise/passport office-wise; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Governemnt in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Statement showing pendency as on date (as on 15.04.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of RPO/PO	Pendency as on 15.04.2005
1	2	3
1	Ahmedabad	4710
2	Bangalore	7105